

of 1979, continue to constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. I shall continue to exercise the powers at my disposal to retain the export control system, including the antiboycott provisions, and will continue to

report periodically to the Congress on significant developments, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1703(c).

GEORGE BUSH

The White House,
April 23, 1991.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Social Security *April 23, 1991*

Dear Bob: (Dear George:)

Six months ago, the Administration and a bipartisan majority in the Congress agreed to separate Social Security from the Federal budget. The advocates of this action argued that this separation was necessary to help protect Social Security. To this end, we also agreed to implement a "firewall" procedure requiring a super-majority vote in the Senate to protect against efforts to deplete the Social Security trust fund balances.

It now appears that there is a Senate loophole in those procedures. It was slipped into last year's budget legislation without the knowledge or approval of many of those who participated in the budget summit. Recently, you and Senator Domenici introduced legislation to repair the Social Security "firewall." I support this legislation and urge the Senate to adopt it immediately.

It is my understanding that some may attempt to exploit this loophole during Senate consideration of the Congressional Budget Resolution. They may propose an amendment to clear the way for legislation to weaken the Social Security system. Senator Moynihan's proposal, for example,

would return Social Security to the same financing scheme that drove the system to the brink of insolvency in 1982. His proposal would drain roughly \$23 billion from Social Security trust fund reserves in 1992 and \$170 billion by the end of 1996. Under pessimistic economic assumptions, adoption of this legislation could again threaten to bankrupt the Social Security system.

We rescued the Social Security system eight years ago on a bipartisan basis. When we did, we made a promise to every American who receives Social Security benefits, to those who support the system today, and to those who will rely on it when they retire. We have worked together to assure that today's benefits are protected and that the system will be strong enough to continue providing benefits to future retirees. I intend to assure that we keep our promise.

Sincerely,

GEORGE BUSH

Note: Identical letters were sent to George J. Mitchell, Senate majority leader, and Robert Dole, Senate Republican leader.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, Commander of the U.S. Forces in the Persian Gulf *April 23, 1991*

Q. Mr. President, what did you have to say to General Schwarzkopf?

The President. I'm listening. I'm in a listening mode. And besides, this is a photo

op, at which I normally do not take questions.

What I'll say to him and when he first got home is, welcome, well-done, and what he

and his troops did in terms of fulfilling our objectives is fantastic. And what he and his troops did for the morale of the United States of America is unbelievable.

We have a great team in Secretary Cheney and General Powell and General Schwarzkopf, and the country knows it. You can feel it. Anytime you get out to this place, why, you sense it. It is fantastic. And I told him that and congratulated him.

Q. General Schwarzkopf—

Q. —the Oval Office, General?

The President. Would you like to see how a guy should handle the press? Come on, Norm. [Laughter] And don't change your style.

Q. General Schwarzkopf, regardless of

your agreement with the President to end the war, do you feel that you would have liked to have gone on and prosecuted it further?

The General. What I'd really like to say is if the President's not going to answer any questions, I damn sure am not going to answer any. [Laughter]

The President. Now you see how to handle them?

Note: The President spoke at noon in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney and Gen. Colin L. Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Remarks at the Presentation of a Point of Light Award to the United States Naval Academy/Benjamin Banneker Honors Mathematics and Science Society Partnership in Annapolis, Maryland

April 23, 1991

Thank you, Admiral Hill. And thank all of you. Thank you very, very much. I just can't tell you how pleased I am to be here. Let me salute our Secretary of Education from whom you've just heard, Lamar Alexander. We've outlined a program of revolution, if you will. We want to start from scratch and challenge every school in this country to do better, every State to do better. And we have an outstanding former Governor and outstanding educator as our Secretary, and we are very blessed. And I'm delighted he was here with me today.

I want to thank Governor Schaefer, too, for pledging to have Maryland remain—and I use that word advisedly—remain in the forefront of this educational revolution. Under him the State has been innovative, and now he's pledged to be out front even further. And we're very grateful, Don, and thank you, sir, for that.

I want to salute the mayor over here, thank him for the weather and thank him for greeting us when we arrived over here on the lacrosse field, or wherever the hell it was over here. [Laughter]

And as for J.D. over here—when I saw

him up here waving I said, we've got an election in '92, I've got to watch this guy. [Laughter] But there's a man of commitment. And I'll say a little more about him later on. But I'll tell you, I was impressed with what I saw here today, and delighted. And also, as one who a thousand years ago wore a naval uniform, I wanted to salute the midshipmen of the greatest Navy on the seven seas. You don't have to take my word for that. If you want a reference, go ask Saddam Hussein—if you can find him.

And as for General Powell, he went to Yankee—I had a bad day opening the Rangers game. [Laughter] Got to throw out the first ball for the Rangers game, Milwaukee/Rangers, and I—curve ball, broke a little early, went into the ground. That's my side of the story, and I'm staying with it. [Laughter] And then a week later, hard, fast, right over the center of the plate, Colin Powell up in Yankee Stadium. Sergeant Powell will be reporting—[laughter]—to Nome, Alaska. [Laughter]